

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) Offender Reentry Program

Purpose and History

The Offender Reentry Program began in FY 2009 and is a partnership initiative between [Iowa Workforce Development](#) (IWD) and the [Department of Corrections](#). Currently, IWD places workforce advisors onsite at the Mitchellville, Newton, and Rockwell City prisons. This staff works with soon-to-be-released ex-felons, with the goal of having them placed in a job before they leave prison.

The IowaWORKS Program offers offenders resources and assistance to prepare for employment upon their release. One-on-one consultations with a workforce advisor are provided to offenders before their release to discuss employment options. Offenders have the opportunity to get registered with IowaWORKS; this in turn allows them to search for open employment positions in their community prior to their release. Employment workshops are held that focus on employment preparation, organization, effective job searching techniques, job applications, résumés, cover letters, and interviewing. Additionally, offenders have the opportunity to test for the National Career Readiness Certificate. This is an opportunity for offenders to add a credential to their résumé.

Funding — State General Fund

The Program receives a State General Fund appropriation for operation in the Economic Development Appropriations Act.

Other Sources of Revenue

The Program receives no other sources of revenue. The Department of Corrections provides office space and other overhead costs.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

This program has no specific Iowa Code or Administrative Rules Chapter. The program operates as an extension of the Division of Workforce Services of IWD.

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More Information

Iowa Workforce Development: <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov>

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